

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT Economic Information: Soviet Railroad Troops and Workers, Manchuria Border Area; Coal Mine Operations, Chalaingoerh

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Manchouli (117-27, 49-36)

1. At the end of the war Soviet authorities established a railroad troops headquarters in Manchouli and sent a large number of railroad technicians there. From this headquarters troops were dispatched to the other stations. It is said that by May 1946 the troops had finished storing in the railroad warehouses Japanese war materiel transported from the northeast. The station has not been enlarged.
2. From 300 to 350 Soviet workers are attached to this headquarters now; eighty per cent of these are railroad troops. The number of railroad workers has varied from 300 in September 1947 to 500 in October 1947, but the average is from 300 to 350. These workers are shifted constantly between Manchouli, Harbin, Tsitsihar (123-57, 47-22) and Hailar (119-44, 49-13). In addition to the Soviet workers there are twenty-one Chinese Communists working as janitors and handy men.
3. There is no fixed schedule for the trains. Usually a train arrives daily from Tsitsihar at 8 a.m. and one from Harbin at 4 p.m. The freight trains carry mostly military supplies; it is believed that the Communist railroad workers are prohibited from seeing these shipments. The bulk of the military shipments is received by Harbin; Tsitsihar gets the next largest amount.

Chalaingoerh (117-44, 49-26)

4. The coal mines at Chalaingoerh are supplying coal to Hailar. The coal in this area is mined by 200 Chinese and 800 other undetermined personnel who are said to be prisoners of the Soviets; the mining is done under strict surveillance. The number of railroad workers has been increased to 500 to perform guard duty at these coal mines; about 200 Soviet railroad troops are attached to the mines as supervisors. Details on actual mining conditions are not known.
5. Four coal bins have been recently constructed within the station-yard, two near the east platform and two near the west platform. The number of platforms has been increased to six; four are on the west branch line and two on the east branch line. These were built by natives who were paid twenty dollars (currency unknown) per day. The coal bins and the platforms were completed in May 1947. A small locomotive shed has also been constructed.
6. Apparently Chalaingoerh will serve as the relay station between Harbin and Manchouli. Military supplies and coal are being concentrated in Chalaingoerh, and every day three trainloads of munitions, which appear to be for the Chinese Communists, and four trainloads of coal are dispatched from this station. Natives are paid twenty dollars (currency unknown) per day to load coal; it is loaded under the supervision of the railway soldiers.

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